

## **Park and Recreation Commission**

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**June 9, 2021**

**Meeting called to order:** 7:34pm.

**Commissioners in Attendance:** George Caye, Genevieve Coursey, Mike Kelly, James Hennessey, Toby Lewis, Bill Nowak, and Renee Powell

**Also in Attendance:** Erica Evans, Molly Keays, John Caldwell, and Kerry Macchi

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Mike Kelly and seconded by George Caye to approve the May 12th minutes. Passed unanimously.

**Public Input:** None present

**Report of Council Liaison:** Erica Evans shared that the Town Council was very impressed by the Master Plan, and she wanted to thank everyone that was involved in the process.

**Report of the B of E Liaison:** None due to the absence of the liaison.

**OSTF:** George Caye Did not have anything to report, as there was no meeting this month.

**Report of Parks and Rec. Director:** Molly Keays, Director of Parks and Recreation provided updates on the following:

- The newest COVID guidelines were released on May 19<sup>th</sup>, which included updates to the business sector rules. The Wapping Parks and Rec facility is not open to the public if business cannot be conducted at the walkup window. We are also rolling back into programming, with our summer camp registration being very successful so far!
- Our Summer Concert Series and Free Friday Flicks are back to their original locations for this summer.
- The Showmobile is set to arrive on June 24<sup>th</sup>, which is later than expected due to manufacturing delays.
- We are moving ahead with the Pickleball/Dek hockey courts at Rye Street Park.
- Registrations have been extremely successful so far for all of our Summer programming.
- VMP opened for the season on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The South Windsor Farmers' Market has been a big hit so far, with over 25 vendors booked for the summer. We are also going to begin a youth educational program called Power of Produce (POP) and is possible due to a donation from the South Windsor Moms Club.
- We have hired a new Assistant Director, Jennifer Filer, who will begin on June 30<sup>th</sup>. She comes with over 15 years of recreation experience, and we are excited to welcome her to the team.
- We are currently at 117% of our adjusted goal for the 20-21 fiscal year.

John Caldwell, Superintendent of Parks provided updates on the following:

- The crew has been battling the rain while trying to get the fields prepped.
- They have completed the new Farmers' Market Road and the back entrance road to Rye Street park from Troy Road.
- Next up, they will be working on removing the top layer of topsoil at 1355 Ellington Road in preparation for the second parking lot for Wapping Park.

-Mike Kelly added that he went to the Farmers' Market and it looked great in the new location, however, he went to the old spot and forgot where it had moved to. He was wondering if there was a possibility to add some additional signage, maybe with arrows pointing to the new location.

-Jamie Hennessey asked if there was an update with the field progress at Eli Terry. John said that the contractor has hydroseeded it, and we are hoping to get on it by the fall.

- Toby Lewis asked if there is any update on the turn field at the high school. John said the field has been closed and the seams are repaired, there is a settlement issue on the sides of the field and they are talking with a contractor about fixing that. Some of the carpet in the end zones needs to be replaced as well.

- Mike Kelly asked if any of the state stimulus money would be coming to the town and/or Parks and Rec. Molly said that she is having a meeting regarding this, and some of the programs and projects may qualify for reimbursement.
- Genevieve Coursey asked if there were any volunteer opportunities available for the Farmers' Market. Molly said that we are always looking for volunteers, especially during the Market season. Interested participants can contact our main office for details.

**Discussion Topic:** At the last meeting, it was discussed that the commission would draft a letter to the town manager to request he look into the sale of LA Fitness. Since that meeting, it was released that another company has bought them out, so it is no longer for sale. Molly explained that it is something that we need to keep on the radar due to the trends in the school system We would like to be prepared with a plan B and C in case the Board of Ed needs to take this building back. Erica suggested that we reach out to the Town Manager on the subject, as Parks and Rec is a town department.

**Other Business:** Jamie asked if there was a plan regarding the permanent storage building for parks. John said it would be for equipment, house the Building Maintenance department and some other offices, and Parks and Rec storage. There is no now information on that project, as it has not yet gone out to bid.

**SWW&WW:** Molly, John, and a few others conducted a site walk-through of half of the Cross Town Trail. The engineer will be finalizing a conceptual alignment of that part of the trail to present to Walk and Wheel Ways at their July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Meeting adjourned** at 7:59pm – motion made by Jamie Hennessey and seconded by Bill Nowak- passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: July 14, 2021**

Respectfully Submitted – Kerry Macchi, Administrative Secretary